

**Section 7028**

(October 2002)

7028	Use of Military Helicopters
7028.1	California National Guard (CNG) Helicopters
7028.2	Federal Military Helicopters

## **USE OF MILITARY HELICOPTERS**

**7028**

(October 2002)

## **CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD (CNG) HELICOPTERS**

**7028.1**

(October 2002)

Use of California National Guard helicopters in firefighting missions is governed by the "California Interagency Military Helicopter Firefighting Program" Operating Plan. *Consult the Operating Plan for detailed information on program operation and responsibilities of assigned personnel.* ([8338.3.1](#))

Activation time for CNG helicopters ranges from 12 to 24 hours, depending on availability of aircraft and flight crews. Each helicopter comes with a CDF airtanker radio, water bucket, foam injection system, and a flight crew trained in bucket operations.

The CH-47 "Chinook" can carry a maximum of 2,000 gallons, or up to 29 passengers. The UH-60 "Blackhawk" can carry a maximum of 780 gallons, or up to 11 passengers. Operational capacities for both helicopter types are usually lower at high altitudes.

One qualified fire-agency Military Helicopter Manager (MHEM) will be assigned to each military helicopter. The MHEM is the on-board firefighting advisor to the flight crew.

CNG flight crews will operate shifts of 12 hours on duty and 12 hours off duty, and are limited to 7 hours of flight time per duty day. Pilots and flight crewmembers accumulating 30 or more hours of flight time in any 6 consecutive days shall be off duty the following day, and shall not work more than 12 consecutive days without 2 days off. A day off must be at least 24 hours, during which pilots and crew shall not be subject to call-up for duty.

CNG will assign a military Officer-In-Charge (OIC) and an Air Mission Commander (AMC) to each incident utilizing CNG helicopters. If two or more helicopters are assigned, a CNG Military Liaison Officer will also be assigned by CNG.

## **FEDERAL MILITARY HELICOPTERS**

**7028.2**

(October 2002)

Federal military helicopters are activated by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise when no other helicopter resources are available for filling requests from federal or state agencies. They will be used in the same manner as CNG helicopters. Federal military helicopter operations will be conducted in accordance with the NIFC "Military Use Handbook" (NFES 2175). ([8338.3.6](#))

([see next section](#))

(see HB Table of Contents)

(see Forms or Forms Samples)